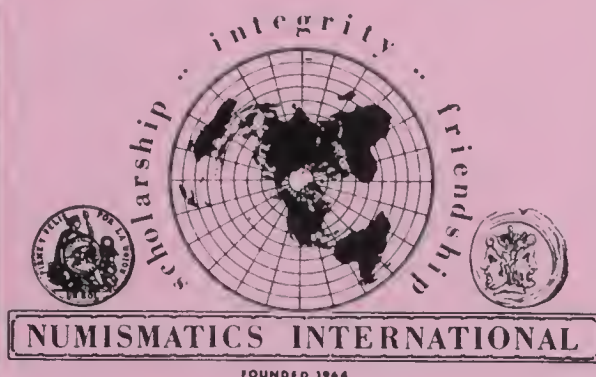


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INSIDE N.I.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

December, 1997 Applications for Membership: The following persons have applied for membership. If no written objections are received by February 1, 1998, their membership will become effective on that date.

2511-MT Frank Galindo, P. O. Box 12217, San Antonio, TX 78212-0217
(Medals, Tokens, Coins, Checks, Elongated, Historical Memorabilia)

2512 Charles Barry, 318 N. 101 Way, Mesa, AZ 85207
(World Numismatics)

2513-MT Gary G. Reed, 1141 Cedar Ridge Lane, #1, Parkhills, KY 41011
(Far East, U.S. Possessions)

Regular Memberships Converted to Life Membership:

LM-125 Gerry D. Kammer, P. O. Box 309, Jarrell, TX 76537-0309
(Dealer in World Coins)

* * * * *

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

I. The following books are new to the Library:

Randolph Zander

JG98.ForA:R966:A

FOSTER, A. VON

Munzen und medaillen der stadt Augsburg

Vol.II - Die Augsburger stadtmunzen

Vol. III - Die munzen und medaillen Augsburger meister fur andere munzberechtigte

Vol. IV - Die munzen und medaillen von Ph. H. Muller

Vol. V - Die Augsburger medaillen.

1966 reprint of 1910 works. Each vol. approx. 50 pages, not illustrated.

PUTIN, V. M.

Coins, hoards, collections. (Russian text)

(A course in numismatics taught by the author.)

Pub. 1993, 301pp, w/plates.

II. If anyone has Volume I of Foster's works (above) in excess to their needs we would appreciate a donation.

Granvyl G. Hulse, Jr. Book Librarian

James D. Haley, Periodical Librarian

* * * * *

DONATIONS REPORT

We have received the following donations since the last report:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Donation</u>	<u>Preference of Use</u>
BESSENYEY, Francis B.	\$25.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
BINGHAM, Robert E.	\$10.00 Cash	NI Library Fund
BODDY, Bob	\$5.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
BORKOWSKI, Kenneth D.	\$5.00 Cash	<i>NI Bulletin</i> Fund
BRUCK, Frederick R.	\$35.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
CARMACK, David E.	\$25.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
CRAWLEY, Leslie L.	\$10.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
DAVENPORT, John S.	\$15.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
DAVIES, James J.	\$1.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
EISEN, Stuart T.	\$10.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
ELLIOTT, Richard M.	\$5.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
GERNER, Francis J.	\$5.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
HINKLE, David R.	\$100.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
KUTCHER, Robert R.	\$10.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
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LINN, Kennie M.	\$10.00 Cash	NI Library Fund
MAIER, Michael G.	\$5.00 Cash	NI Library Fund
MOCKAITIS, L.	\$10.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
MUCHMORE, Charles	\$50.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
MUCHMORE, Charles	\$50.00 Cash	NI Library Fund
MULLAN, Bill	\$30.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
NOLAN, John T.	\$10.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
PRICE, Frederick L.	\$10.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
SAXEN, Richard W.	\$5.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
SCHOTT, Donald	\$10.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
SWENSON, David J.	\$10.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
THANNISCH, G. D.	\$15.00 Cash	NI Reference Collection
WITTER, Dwayne A.	\$10.00 Cash	General Operating Fund

FORGING OF DANISH WEST INDIAN COUNTERSTAMPS

Jørgen Sømod. Frederiksberg, Denmark

In connection with the introduction of a new monetary system into the Danish West Indies in 1850, it was decided that, instead of minting coins specifically for the territory, North American coins would be bought and placed into circulation in the islands. To prevent the coins from being re-exported, the two highest denominations (half and quarter dollars) were counterstamped with the king's monogram surmounted by a crown.

When the interest in collecting these coins developed, it became obvious that it was impossible to satisfy collector demand for counterstamped coins, not only from the Danish West Indies, but from the Caribbean as a whole. For this reason several issues of forged counterstamps were produced, both on coins that were legitimately counterstamped earlier and on many others besides. These latter forgeries caused difficulties for both museums and private collectors, and also hindered the understanding of the monetary history of the area in question. Fonrobert's catalogue (Berlin 1878), edited by Adolph Weyl, has until now been seen as the authoritative bible on American coins of this region. It is clear, however, that his collection contained hoards of forged counterstamps that were probably all manufactured in Germany. Danish West Indian counterstamps, with dies like those in the Fonrobert collection, are found in German collections only. Less than ten pieces are known.

Five years later, in 1883, there appeared a new series of forgeries, all probably originating in France. The Danish West Indian ones were imported into Denmark and many of them were bought by Vilhelm Bergsøe, who later sold them at an auction in Amsterdam in 1903. At the sale some counterstamps made reference to the Fonrobert collection, but this was misleading. None of them came from Fonrobert, and all were made from the so-called French die. Furthermore, with the exception of only one coin, all those struck from the French die are unique. It was as if the forger was building up a collection. We do know that the first buyer was Ludvig Bramsen, a Dane, who thought the coins were genuine. (He is known for the three-volume catalog of his collection of Napoleonic medals.) The exception in the 1903 Amsterdam auction was a duplicate that did not come from Bramsen's collection. It was a USA 1/2 cent dated 1808, and was listed as belonging to »eines ausländischen Cavaliers« (a foreign gentleman). It was later sold by the auctioneer Leo Hamburger, in Frankfurt am Main, on the 14th of May 1906. This "foreign Cavalier" duplicate may have come from France.

Another coin at the Bergsøe sale was an 1850 Haïti 6¼ centimes issued the same year as the genuine counterstamps were struck. The coin is dark chocolate brown in color, and looks like it had been in circulation for at least 30 years, but the counterstamp is brilliant uncirculated. More than 50 pieces from the French die are known.

A third series turned up in 1914. The strange thing is, however, that silver coins turned up only in the U.S., while copper coins with the same counterstamp appeared only in Denmark. Totally there are less than 10 pieces. It is here that I need help from American collectors. My oldest source for a Brazil 960 Reis, dated 1818 (KM307.3), and a Peru Cuczo (8 reales), dated 1838 (KM170.4), is F. G. Duffield's article, "A Trial List of the Countermarked Modern Coins of the World", appearing in *The Numismatist* during 1919, 1920, and 1921. Duffield tells us that his list was compiled from auction catalogs through 1915. In which catalog, or catalogs, did he find these two coins?

Until about 1960 there was a lull in the manufacture of new forgeries. The forged and genuine counterstamps observed in the U.S. up to that date, with the exception of the 1914 silver issues, can all be traced back to old Danish collections. Most importantly, however, up until this same period (1960) no one doubted the authenticity of any of these counterstamps.

In the U.S. in 1963 a forgery was recorded that is very easy to detect, as the cross at the top of the crown is missing. It was published in 1967 by the American Collector Ray Byrne. What he did not realize was that nearly all the other counterstamps in his own collection were also fakes manufactured in the U.S. in the 1960s and 1970s. When the auction catalog listing his collection was first published in Los Angeles in 1975, my suspicions were aroused. A close investigation proved that, with the exception of a very few pieces, all of the counterstamps were produced with the intention of cheating collectors and museums.

One of the pieces Ray Byrne listed (Byrne #1239 U.S. large cent) is quite interesting as it has both a Danish and a Swedish countermark. I had a problem the first time that I investigated that coin because of my lack of knowledge of Swedish counterstamps, for if the Swedish counterstamp was genuine, all of my conclusions would then be wrong. I was soon, however, visited by the Swedish expert, the late Frank Olrog, his comment was, "*Because of my own lack of knowledge of the Danish counterstamps, I don't know what to say, but I don't like the coin.*" We then mutually declared the coin as a forgery, and all of the other coins with the same die are of course forgeries also. Later I became acquainted with the owner of the coin with the two countermarks, and had the opportunity to physically examine it. The owner just sent it to me with instructions that, after I made my examination, I should send it on to Frank Olrog in Stockholm for his examination. As normal on such counterfeits, the counterstamp was uncirculated, and the reverse of the coin looked re-patinated. The forgeries Ray Byrne listed in his catalog are still circulating in the U.S. coin market.

If a coin is to be genuine, the counterstamp must be struck on U.S. Seated Liberty 1/2 dollars dated 1848, 1849, or 1850, or on an 1849 Seated Liberty 1/4 dollars. All the others are forgeries.

It should be remembered:

- a. That, J.W. Scott in his *Standard Coin Catalogue* (New York, 1913) only knew about the pieces from the Fonrobert sale;

JØRGEN SØMOD

Forging of Danish West Indian counterstamps



Forgeries with the German die; the die is known since 1878.



USA \$ 1842

The Fonrobert catalog #7670; Berlin 1878.



USA \$ 1842

The Fonrobert specimen #7670
with the German die.

FAKE



USA \$ 1842

The Bergsøe specimen #961
with the French die.

FAKE



Forgeries with the French die; the die is known since 1883.



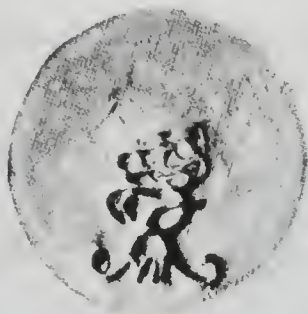
Haïti 6¼ centimes 1850 with the French die
from the Bergsøe sale, Amsterdam 1903 #985.
FAKE



Forgeries with the 1914-die.



Forgeries from the Parson collection.
Die known since 1963.



USA cent with Danish and Swedish die.
Ray Byrne #1239.
FAKE



Forgeries from The Ray Byrne collection.
Die known since 1966.



Other forgeries from The Ray Byrne collection 1975.

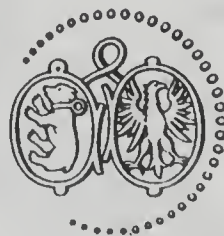
Genuine counterstamps:



USA ½\$ 1848 USA ½\$ 1849 USA ½\$ 1850 USA ¼\$ 1849

No other coins were officially counterstamped.

XII.
Internationaler
Numismatischer
Kongreß



Berlin
1997



JØRGEN SØMOD

Hollændervej 20, DK 1855 Frederiksberg C, Denmark
Fax x-45-31212484; from 31st March 1998: x-45-33212484

- b. That, Frank G. Duffield in his articles in *The Numismatist* (except for three silver pieces with the so-called 1914-die), only knew about pieces with the German counterstamp;
- c. That, O. Blom Carlsen in his articles cataloging these counterstamps (*The Numismatist* 1928-1929), with the exception of one or two pieces, listed pieces that came from Danish collections;
- d. That, Wayte Raymond in his 1942 work did not know of any of the many pieces which now circulate in the U.S.;
- e. That, Lincoln W. Higgie in his *The Colonial Coinage of the U.S. Virgin Islands* (Wisconsin, 1962) was only able to show pictures of two coins, one with the French die, and one with the so-called 1914 die, and;
- f. That, all of the pieces in the American collections belonging to Guttag, Waldo Newcomer and O. Blom Carlsen were bought from Danish collections.

Jørgen Sømod, Hollændervej 20, DK 1855 Frederiksberg C, Denmark
 Fax X - 45 31212484
 Mailto:numis@vip.cybercity.dk

THE BRONZE FORMULA

When a coin is listed as being struck in bronze, chances are great that the metal is one distinct composition - 95% copper, 4% tin and 1% zinc. How this formula evolved is an interesting story.

Early in the French Revolution, one of the prime targets for the revolutionaries was churches, the churches holding a huge percentage of the prime French land. The church bells were torn down with the result that tons of bell metal was available with no apparent use. However, the frugal citoyens decided that when you are stuck with a lot of useless metal, you should turn it into coins and consequently a large quantity was consigned to the French mints. The mints already knew that not only is bell metal musically inclined, but bell metal in itself is much too brittle to be struck and therefore to make the stuff workable, early revolutionary coins were struck with a formula of bell metal and copper in equal proportions.

Napoleon then dipped his fingers into the bellmetal stockpile and used a quantity of it in the casting of cannon. Bellmetal, by getting scarcer, meant that the mints had to strike their coins with an ever increasing percentage of copper until by trial-and-error, the formula was stabilized at the standard bronze formula. France dropped bronze in its metropolitan coinage in about 1800 and did not resume either copper or bronze until the copper 1-centime pieces were struck in 1848. In 1852, the standard bronze formula was confirmed by French law and shortly thereafter, the formula was adopted by the greater part of the world for the smallest denominations.

(From Collectors Research Limited price
 list 68-7, February 22, 1968)

SOME UNIQUE or VERY RARE EUROPEAN DOLLARS #9

John S. Davenport, Mount Dora, Florida, NI #602

Pope Clement XII (Lorenzo Corsini) (1730-1740) died on 6 February 1740 after initiating several monetary reforms. Camerlengo Cardinal Annibale Albani was in charge of Papal affairs until the new Pope Benedict XIV was elected on 17 August 1740. A Sede Vacante piastra was issued by the Cardinal during the interval.

PIASTRA, MDCCXL (1740)

SEDE·VACAN·TE·MDCCXL·

Canopy and crossed keys over arms.

EMITTE·COELITVS·LVCIS·TVAE·RADIVM

Radiant dove among clouds.

Apparently a very similar but different second type was issued. Allen Berman thinks this may be a pattern.



SEDE·VACAN·TE·MDCCXXXX

Canopy and crossed keys with much larger arms.

EMITTE·SPIRITVM·TVVM

Radiant dove above RO arms MA. The shield has the arms of M. Spinola.

Not in Muntoni or Berman. Dav. 1456A. Unique? Leu XXXII-566.

RELIGIOUS MEDALS V: RELIGIOUS MEDALS & AMULETS

Bob Forrest, Manchester, England, NI #2382

"If I described the crosses that some people wear as charms, I should probably become unpopular, but if crosses are worn without any religious sentiment, purely for luck or to avert bombs...well, what else are they?"

So wrote G. B. Gardner in his article "British Charms, Amulets and Talismans" (1) back in 1942, when dodging bombs was a prime concern! Actually, I would broaden his question and ask: "if crosses are worn with religious sentiment as well as for luck, well, what else are they?"

The same is true of religious medals, which can rapidly degenerate (if that is the right word) from devotional objects into amulets pure and simple. I can no better illustrate this than by telling a true story.

My wife and I were wandering through the old quarter of Coruña in Spain in the summer of 1996, when we bumped into A and his wife M, whom we have known for some years and who run a small coin-dealing business. M had told me in conversation the previous week that her husband always carried with him "an old medallion" as an amulet for protection against the evil eye, but at the time she had told me this, A had not been there. Now he was, so now was a good time to ask if I could see it, and, obligingly as ever, he took it out of his pocket to show me. His amulet was, I guessed, a crucifixion jeton of some kind, possibly of seventeenth century date, or thereabouts, but as I am no expert on jetons this was really no more than a guess made on the basis of a brief examination in the middle of a busy street.

But that is by the by, and not the main point of this story, for having developed an interest in such things, I asked A if he had any amulets for sale. Yes, one, he said - an amulet of a type that used to be used for protecting cattle from the evil eye. It was in a pile of stuff at home somewhere, but M would bring it to their market stall the following Saturday.

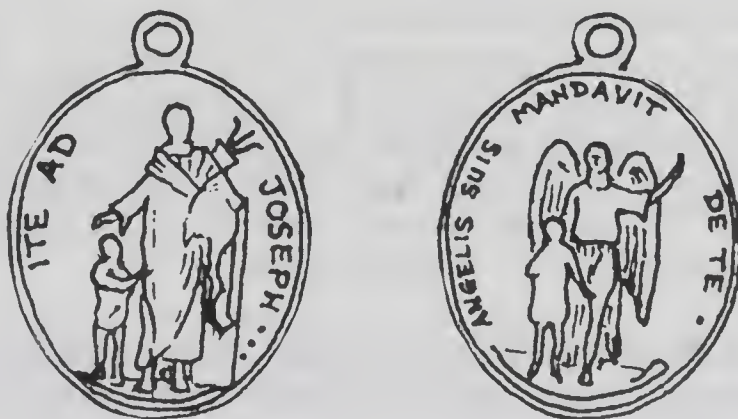


Fig. 1

I didn't know quite what to expect, I must admit, as amulets can take such a diversity of forms, but when M handed it over to me a few days later, I was surprised and puzzled to find that it was actually a bronze religious medal devoted to St. Joseph! It is shown in Fig. 1.

Now, if you have never stood in a street market and tried, with your own inadequate Spanish plus the help of a translator wife who is getting bored with coins and medals, and wants to see the dresses on a stall down the road, to find out why on earth such a medal should protect cattle in particular from the evil eye, then you haven't experienced true frustration, believe me! The medal would protect people as well, I gathered, but as to why it was particularly efficacious when hung around the necks of sick cows, I was unable to glean anything beyond a shrug of the shoulders and a broad Spanish smile!

On reflection, I guess I shouldn't have been too surprised at the form of this amulet. Thinking back on the cures attributed to the medals of St. Catherine Labouré (2), the protection from brigands and labour pains offered by the medals of St. Philomena (3), and the appearance of St. George on travellers' charms (4), perhaps, after all, St. Joseph's protective role for sick cattle was par for the course!

I should perhaps emphasise that though Fig. 1 had been pressed into service in Galicia as an amulet against the evil eye, its original purpose was rather more orthodoxly devotional. Its obverse legend ITE AD JOSEPH means "Go to Joseph", and its reverse ANGELIS SUIS MANDAVIT DE TE means "He has given instructions to his angels about you." This latter legend is clearly derived from Psalm 91.11:

"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."

"He" is here the Lord (v.9), of course, and not St. Joseph.

However, I have another brass medal of St. Joseph which appears to be a relative of this one, this time French or Belgian. Its obverse depicts the half-length figure of St. Joseph holding a lily, with legend SAINT JOSEPH, and its reverse, similar to the reverse of Fig. 1, but with legend L'ANGE GARDIEN (the Guardian Angel).

Taken together, these two medals appear to suggest that St. Joseph was believed to have some special link with guardian angels, though I have been unable to discover exactly what this is, if indeed there ever was a direct connection. Possibly it relates to the notion that St. Joseph is the patron of a happy and peaceful death (5), an idea that appears to derive from the apocryphal *History of Joseph the Carpenter* (6), where a detailed account of St. Joseph's last illness is given. At his approaching death Jesus and Mary comfort him and Jesus promises *protection in life and in death* to those who do good in Joseph's name. As Butler writes:

"It is easy to understand that such alleged promises will have made a deep impression upon simple folk, many of whom no doubt believed that they carried with them a divine warrant of fulfillment."



Fig. 2

Or perhaps the link between St. Joseph and guardian angels is via *children*, for both the Spanish and French medals appear to depict their angels with the figure of a child. Certainly in Spain each child was believed to have its own special guardian angel, and one could buy little medals for children which supposedly depicted the child with its angel. Fig. 2 shows a typical example in silver, depicted twice actual size. It is uniface and bears no legend. Now, I am not aware of any particular connection between these little medals and St. Joseph, but it is possible that some connection did arise via an analogy between the protective role of the angel towards the child and that of St. Joseph toward the infant Jesus - an analogy which is actually suggested by a comparison of the obverse and reverse of Fig. 1, if the child on the obverse is Jesus!

Again, it is a fact that the Virgin Mary acquired the title "Queen of the Angels" (it is used on the obverse of the medal depicted in Fig. 5, for example), and since Joseph was her guardian as well as the guardian of the infant Jesus, it doesn't take a great leap of the imagination to seem him as a sort of "King of the Angels", though I must stress that I have never seen him referred to as such (7).

Be that as it may, medals like that shown in Fig. 1 primarily served to express the wearer's devotion to St. Joseph, but of course, the fact that the reverse offered angelic protection to the wearer meant that they also acquired a secondary amuletic usage. Such a usage has never been sanctioned by the Church, of course, but then what the Church says is one thing and what the popular imagination believes is so often quite another!

So there are two puzzles about Fig. 1, the lesser puzzle of what connection, if any, St. Joseph had with guardian angels, and the greater puzzle of why on earth this medal gained its particular reputation for being efficacious in protecting cattle from the evil eye! If anyone reading this has any bright ideas on either score, I would be delighted to hear from them!

Perhaps I should add that if St. Joseph's protection of cattle seems a somewhat lowly role (with apologies for the unintended pun), he did more than make up for it under Pius IX, when he became the official patron of the Catholic Church and special protector of the Papacy. Fig. 3 depicts a Spanish medal in bronze relating to this.



Fig. 3

The obverse legend reads O GLORIOSO S JOSE ESPOSO DE MARIA PROTEGED NOS (O glorious St. Joseph, husband of Mary, protect us) and the reverse PROTEGED A LA IGLESIA Y SU CABEZA VISIBLE (Protect the Church and its Visible Head). Whether the Pope ever knew that his guardian was also busily guarding cattle from the evil eye in Spain is unrecorded, but it does occur to me that the farmers of Galicia may well have reasoned that if St. Joseph could look after the Church and the Pope, then looking after their cattle would be no extra burden at all....

As an aside we may also mention that St. Joseph is the special patron of carpenters and workers generally. In recent years he has also apparently become the patron of the unemployed, for on a prayer-card accompanying a recently manufactured medal of his we read, "please help me to find gainful employment very soon", a poignant instance of religious belief moving with the times!



Fig. 4

In a previous article of this series we had occasion to refer to a series of articles on amulets by W. L. Hildburgh, published in the journal *Folklore* early this century. His "Notes on some Flemish amulets and beliefs" (8) are particularly interesting in respect of the amuletic use of religious medals. A good example relates to the medal shown in Fig. 4, of which Hildburgh writes:

"S. Hubert of Liége is the patron saint of dogs as well as of hunting. He is a great favourite with all classes in Belgium, where dogs are very numerous, and the large ones used as draught-animals are often savage. Medals of S. Hubert, which are frequently worn, have on the reverse, in most cases, a representation of S. Roch, protector against plague, small-pox, cholera, and all other epidemic diseases; they are used as a protection against hydrophobia and epidemic diseases. A medal of S. Hubert is sometimes built into a house - under the doorstep, for example - to preserve both canine and human inmates from hydrophobia." (p.212)

In respect of farm animals, Hildburgh says that medals of St. Benedict were sometimes put in stables to protect the livestock (p.207 & p.211) and that though medals of St. Anthony the Hermit (usually represented with a pig at his feet, and the patron saint of domestic animals) were regularly hung about the necks of livestock, for their protection or cure, in Italy, they were "not at present in use" in Flanders, where statuettes of the saint were used instead (p.210-1).

In respect of human ailments, and their prevention and cure, Hildburgh tells us (p.206-7) that medals of St. Godelieve were used for maladies of the eyes and throat, though medals of St. Philomena were also good for throat troubles. Medals of St. Idesbalde, meanwhile, were effective against rheumatism, and those of St. Apollonia against troubles of the teeth (9).

Hildburgh further writes:

"Women who desire children carry a medal or a statuette of the Immaculate Conception, or of Notre Dame de Lourdes. The medal of Notre Dame de Bon Conseil is worn as an aid to lactation, and to secure wishes in connection with children. The medal of S. Alphonse de Liguori is worn by women during pregnancy, to obtain a good delivery; that of S. Agnes, to secure regularity of menstruation, and, by young women, for the retention of purity (and against the evil eye); and that of S. Germaine, the Shepherdess, a Belgian saint, for aid in menstruation, and, by young girls, against the sicknesses of youth. An image of the Immaculate Conception is believed to protect young women against moral evils." (p.207)

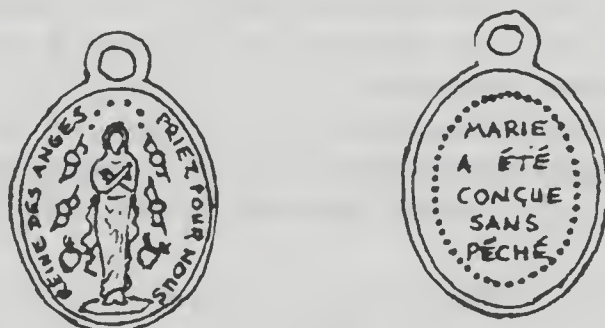


Fig. 5

I am not sure exactly what type of medal Hildburgh has in mind when he refers to a medal of the Immaculate Conception, for there seem to be many types which relate to this notion that the Virgin Mary was specially sanctified by God in the first moments of her conception, and thus, in effect, conceived without sin, in readiness for the birth of Christ much later (10). But I offer in Fig. 5 one candidate which I can well image young girls being made to wear by their parents as a protection against "moral evils"! The obverse depicts the Virgin Mary with four winged-head type angels and the two sacred heart symbols (11), with legend REINE DE ANGES PRIEZ POUR NOUS (Queen of the Angels, pray for us). The reverse says simply MARIE A ÉTÉ CONÇUE SANS PÉCHÉ (Mary was conceived without sin), a neat summary of the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Add to all the foregoing that medals of St. Donato were worn for protection against

lightning (p.203), and medals of St. Christopher for the prevention of sea-sickness (p.203), and bear in mind that these are merely a selection from a seemingly endless list, then it comes as no surprise that:

"Often a considerable number of medals are carried simultaneously; in one case I noted a woman wore at least twenty, to which various virtues were attributed, and to whose efficacy she considered the continuance of her good health to be due." (p.201-2)

Notes.

- (1) *Folklore* vol. 53, p.96.
- (2) See my "Religious Medals I", *NI Bulletin*, June 1997, p.156-7.
- (3) See my "Religious Medals II", *NI Bulletin*, July 1997, p.178-9.
- (4) See my "Religious Medals III", *NI Bulletin*, September 1997, p.233ff.
- (5) See Alban Butler's *Lives of the Saints*, under St. Joseph (March 19th); also Hildburgh, as note 8, p.205.
- (6) It is curious that this work, probably originally in Greek but now known only through Coptic and Arabic translations, may be as old as the 4th century (but is probably more recent), whereas the association of St. Joseph with "a good death" came into prominence relatively late. His name does not appear in the formularies for the sick and dying given in the *Rituale Romanum* of 1614, for example. See Butler, as in note 5.
- (7) He is, however, sometimes referred to as the guardian angel of Mary - see Pere Binet, *The Divine Favors Granted to St. Joseph* (1983), p.30-1.
- (8) *Folklore*, vol. 19, p.200-213.
- (9) I cannot resist comparing this with the following passage from Charles Mackay's book *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds* (1852), p.698:

"Brussels at one time preserved, and perhaps does now, the teeth of St. Gudule. The faithful who suffered from the toothache, had only to pray, look at them, and be cured."
- (10) For a good article on the controversy surrounding this notion, and its lengthy history, see W. E. Addis, T. Arnold & T. B. Scannell, *A Catholic Dictionary* (1960), under "Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin" (p.431-5). The Immaculate conception became official doctrine only in 1854.
- (11) As note 2, p.154-6.

Book News & Reviews

History of Currency in the State of Bahrain. By Robert E. Darley-Doran and the Bahrain Monetary Agency. 1996. Library binding, 9-1/2 x 11-1/2 inches, 174 pp., 44 full color plates, and 25 half or quarter page illustrations. Published and distributed on behalf of the Bahrain Monetary Agency by Spink & Son Ltd., 5, 6 & 7 King Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QS, United Kingdom. Price is 36.50 English pounds postpaid.

The conquest of Bahrain occurred in 1783 by either the 'Utub of Kuwait or Zubara as recorded in the local tradition preserved by the Al-Khalifa family and that of the English Factory of Basra (Bombay Government Records). The present Amir is H.H. Shaikh Isa Bin Sulman al Khalifa, to whom the book is dedicated with the crown prince and the prime minister of the same family.

The authors have patterned the work after a similar volume, *History of Currency in the Sultanate of Oman* (1990), and the text is in Arabic and English. In preparing the book, the Agency has had access to its own collection of both historical and current coins as well as the collections of the Bahrain National Museum, the British Museum, and the Royal Mint. Its own coinage followed the withdrawal of Britain from India and was introduced in 1950. It was modelled after British Indian currency (which was still legal tender). Under the terms of Legislative Amiri Decree of 1964, paper currency was established with rights given to the Bahrain Currency Board and a Bahraini dinar divided into 1000 fils replaced the Gulf Rupee.

The development of coinage up to the birth of Mohammed is discussed and well illustrated, as is that of the early centuries of the Muslim community and of the period of political diversity in the Muslim world. The coinage of the Mongols and the coinage of the era of the trading states in Italy are also represented by some choice examples.

In the chapter on the rise of the three great Islamic Empires, a full page is devoted to the hoard of Ottoman silver coins struck at the mint of Basra in the names of the four sultans 982-1049 A.H. (1574-1623 A.D.). This hoard was originally described and illustrated by Professor Christopher Toll in *Turcica et Orientalia*, pp. 149-66 (1987). The next chapter discusses the decline of the Empires and the rise of local consciousness in the Arabian peninsula. It also includes a full description of the currency found circulating in the region up to the discovery of oil.

The tables included in this work give specifications for the 1965 currency and all the bank note issues to date. Technical data on the tenth anniversary coinage and the second issue of the regular coinage is also included.

This sumptuous volume is embellished with excellent color views of the scenery and noteworthy architecture on the Island. This, in turn, adds greatly to the charm of handling this interesting written souvenir of the historical coinage in use in the Arab Gulf

from ancient to modern times. It will have a justifiable appeal to coin collectors who have a wide interest in the subject.

Reviewed by Kenneth M. MacKenzie.



***The Ralph C. Gordon Collection of Coins of the West Indies and the American Colonies.* Baldwin's Auctions, 7 October 1996. Catalogued by Peter Mitchell. Cardcover, 33 pp., with 15 plates and photocopy of the prices realized. Available from Dale Seppa, 103 N. Sixth Avenue, Virginia, MN 55792. Price is \$12.00 postpaid.**

One of the most complex series of coins in the New World comes from colonies in the West Indies which utilized the coins of other countries or more established colonies, and altered them by cutting or stamping them. At times, imitations or contemporary forgeries which had already circulated (usually in their home countries) were cut into new shapes and/or stamped. The historical, and sometimes physical, legwork involved in researching these pieces is considerable.

Further complicating such investigations has been the necessity to trace, compare, and somehow reconcile denominational and metrological systems which are rarely neatly divisible, remembering at all times that one of the chief motivations behind the development of money itself -- as compared to largely agriculturally based barter -- has always been divisibility. One cannot divide a cow without first converting it to beef and its other components, such as hides, horns, sinews, and the like. Wheat could be measured, or seeds, or salt. It was in this fashion that weights, measures, and lastly, money evolved from ancient times.

The modern idea of the decimal is usually the first thing to be lost, when we combine monetary systems, or change one currency for another. In some cases it never existed in the first place, as with Spanish Reales. The English-speaking world, however, has been one of the last regions on earth to realize this, so we should not be surprised to discover, for example, that a Spanish dollar used in Dominica marked as "16 Bitts" was, or at least should have been, the equivalent of two dollars. But what happened if these colonies changed hands, or silver dropped in value as compared to gold, or those in power simply wished to keep such coinage from leaving the island or being melted down? All of these were issues for centuries, especially when alliances were constantly shifting, and the mere threat of piracy, often legally condoned or even sanctioned by neighboring rivals, was enough to cause monetary pandemonium. Often enough, all bets are off as far as our assumptions are concerned, and it's back to the archives.

In the West Indies in particular, we hear of denominations which bewilder us: the "Black Dogs" of Montserrat or St. Kitts are but one example. "Hybridization" must be presumed the norm in this area.

Ralph C. Gordon, a New Yorker who spent much of his life on the island of Martinique after serving as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy in World War II, formed the comprehensive collection offered in this catalogue. As Peter Mitchell states in the Introduction: "The late Ralph C. Gordon (1921-1992) once declared he wanted to be not a collector, not a trader, not an investor, but the expert, 'the one who knows more than anyone else' about the coinage of the West Indies in the Napoleonic Era."

The catalogue is well-researched, and makes extensive reference to the catalogues or collections of Ray Byrne, John J. Ford, Victor Gadoury, Howard D. Gibbs, F. Pridmore, as well as to Gordon's own collection. As knowledge in this area is constantly expanding (serious, objective research dates only from the mid 1960s) this recent, relatively compact, yet definitive collection is a fine place for the neophyte to begin or for specialists to expand their exposure.

Reviewed by David B. Fiero.



1998 North American Coins & Prices. Edited by David C. Harper. Krause Publications, Iola, 1997. Softcover, 6" x 9", 528 pp., heavily illustrated with valuations. Available from Krause Publications, Book Department NDR7, 700 E. State Street, Iola, WI 54990-001. Price is \$16.95 plus \$3.25 postage.

Most collectors reading this review will already be familiar with earlier editions of this work (and will therefore not need a review to commend the work to their attention) or will mistakenly believe that such a North American coin price guide holds little allure for their purposes. Regardless of which category you are in, however, I encourage you to consider purchasing a copy as an affordable gift for an inquisitive youngster who may become an aspiring numismatist after receiving it for the holidays.

The guide provides comprehensive coverage of U.S., Canadian, and Mexican coins from the 17th century to the present. Specifically, the catalogue is divided into six sections covering colonial issues, U.S. issues of 1792, U.S. issues from 1793 to the present, U.S. minting errors and varieties, Canadian coins since 1858, and Mexican coins from 1701. The catalogue provides all the valuable information which Krause publications always provide, such as date, mintmark, mintage, valuations in various grades (over 45,000), and a photograph for type (over 1,500). The neat, clean presentation of the foregoing makes the catalogue easily used by beginning and young collectors.

The catalogue also provides twelve interesting introductory chapters and a glossary of numismatic terms which make the work an especially valuable, comprehensive manual for novice collectors. For instance, the work contains chapters on the history of the U.S. mint; how coins are manufactured; how to acquire coins; how to grade coins; how to organize a collection; how to preserve a collection; and which coin collecting

organizations to consider joining (through some oversight, I am sure, NI was not included). The chapters provide important information to the novice collector and will, I hope, serve as the ever important catalyst to a deeper appreciation for numismatics.

I also note that I am especially pleased that the work has the coinage of the U.S., Canada, and Mexico catalogued in one place. The advantage of this, from my way of thinking, is quite obvious. Most young collectors start with wheat cents or other familiar U.S. coins and ignore "foreign" coins because they are inaccessible or information about them is not readily available. A young collector of U.S. coins would inevitably be exposed to "foreign" coins (i.e., Mexican and Canadian coins) while perusing this catalogue. Such an exposure could only be a positive occurrence for world numismatics. Thus, I heartily encourage you to purchase a copy of this work as a "stocking stuffer" for those prospective collectors you know. Help them become the world coin collectors of tomorrow.

Reviewed by Donald S. Yarab



Collecting World Coins: A Century of Circulating Issues 1901-Present. By Chester L. Krause and Clifford Mishler. Edited by Colin R. Bruce II. Krause Publications, Iola, 1998. Softcover, 8-1/2" x 11", 720 pp., heavily photographed with valuations. Available from Krause Publications, Book Department NBR7, 700 E. State Street, Iola, WI 54990-0001. Price is \$28.95 plus \$3.25 postage.

The latest edition of *Collecting World Coins* catalogues more than 19,600 world coins with more than 15,700 actual size photographs. The coins are listed by date, mintmark, and mintage and each listing includes valuations in various grades for each. The book also contains gold and silver bullion charts, a foreign exchange table, a guide to international numerics, a grading guide, a coin size chart, a coin denomination index, and a photo instant identifier section.

According to the introduction, the book is "designed to serve the needs of that segment of the world coin collecting realm -- the beginner, the novice, the casual collector -- whose reference requirements have been displaced by the rush of comprehensiveness of coverage and specialization in recent years. It does not provide an enhancement of anything which has gone before, rather, it offers a substantially different approach to filling the informational needs of a significant segment of the universe, to which it relates, than has previously been offered. . . ." By doing so, the publisher hopes to "encourage them to deeper involvement in the collecting realm." A most laudable and needed reference work, as such.

Reviewed by Donald S. Yarab



National Coats of Arms on World Banknotes, c.1800-1997: Complete Descriptions. By Charles R. Hosch. Regal Treasures, Ltd., Marietta, 1997. Cardcover, 8-1/2" x 11", 64 pp., with glossary and bibliography. Available from Regal Treasures, Ltd., P.O. Box 7569, Marietta, GA 30065. Price is \$8.00 postpaid.

Heraldry in numismatics and paper money collecting is under-appreciated. Yes, we collectors certainly embrace heraldry while we are attempting to identify those obscure medieval and early modern coin issues from the German states (especially when they have no inscriptions or include heavily abbreviated inscriptions), but how often do we go the next step and *understand* what the heraldic symbols represent and why they are there? Not as often as we should, I venture to guess.

This work provides a written description of the coats of arms appearing on world bank notes since approximately 1800. There are no photographs or pictures, but none are required as the descriptions of over 250 shields are complete and clearly articulated. The latter attribute, clearly articulated descriptions, was intentional on the part of the author and was easily accomplished by him as he eschewed traditional blazoning of heraldry in favor of plain English.

As a brief example, consider the description of the shield of the Republic of India: "The seal of India consists of the Asoka Lions, from the Asoka Column capital found at Sarnath, one of many erected by Emperor Asoka, the third Buddhist emperor of the Maurya dynasty of Magadha (reigned from 273 to 232 BC). Below the lions is the Chakra of Asoka, the wheel of law of Dharma (religious teaching of Ashoka) denoting motion and virtue and which represents the dynamism of a peaceful change. Below, in Devanagari script, is a quotation from the ancient *Mundaka Upanishad* meaning, 'Truth Alone Triumphs.'" This description provides me a greater appreciation of the shield which I have often seen on Indian coins and bank notes than I ever had before. Similar examples abound in the work, making it a valuable and inexpensive reference for every numismatist's library.

Reviewed by Donald S. Yarab

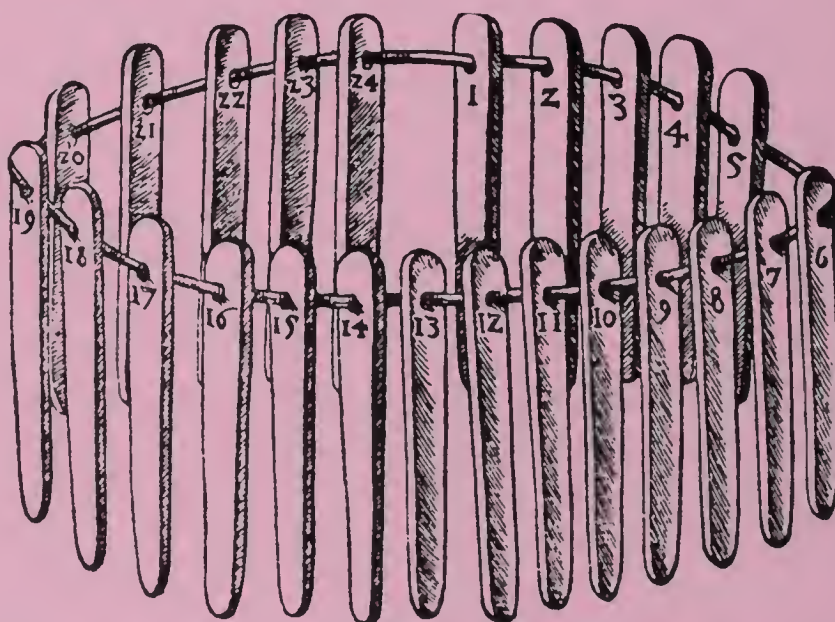


MEMBER NOTICE PAGE

Gregory G. Brunk, P. O. Box 125, Hudson, Iowa 50643: My current numismatic project is to produce a truly comprehensive catalog of medieval and modern government counterstamps. I am happy to correspond with others who are interested in countermarked coins. I will provide collectors any information that I have about their countermarked coins if they will send me a photograph and a SASE.

John S. Davenport, 2871 Mapleton Lane, Mount Dora, Florida 32757: Paying \$5.00 for any usable illustration of Davenport numbers on a first come basis. 3851, 3881, 3884, 3928, 3949, 3964, 3976, 3986, 3988, 4017, 4028, 4132, 4337, 4342, 4391, 4458, 4482, 4859, 8265, 8266, 8428, 8433, 8435, 8436, 8511.

THE TOUCHSTONE



Every numismatist that has even a nodding acquaintance with ancient and medieval coins must have wondered how the minters managed to keep within set tolerances in a coins fineness with the rather rough methods available to them. Or else - and this bothered the contemporary coin users more than us - how did one find the fineness of a coin once the piece had been struck without resorting to destruction of the coin itself.

The answer is the touchstone. The touchstone itself was simply a flat piece of flint not unlike the carborundum whetstones in use today. The coin in question (usually gold but occasionally silver) was rubbed on the touchstone and the streak left was compared to streaks left by one of 24 standard "needles" which were composed of known and carefully measured amount os gold, silver and copper. If gold, each of the needles represented ascending finenesses in carats. Even a novice could judge the fineness within a few percentages and long-time assayers are reputed to have been able to judge the fineness to within a fraction of a percentage.

(From Collectors Research Limited price list 68-35, August 30, 1968)